

BUDE-STRATTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

1 9 4 8

on the

HEALTH OF BUDE-STRATTON

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

L. RICH

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for the Bude-Stratton
Urban District.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28962758>

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Urban District Council of Bude-Stratton.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 3/49 of the 17th January, I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1948.

I assumed my duties as your full time Medical Officer of Health on the 1st August, 1948 from your previous Medical Officer, Dr. King, who was also a General Practitioner.

It has been possible with the staff at my disposal, to keep accurate records of all Public Health and Sanitary matters in your District. Prior to taking over, no such staff existed and it is hoped that in the future, full and accurate reports will be made available to the Council.

The vital statistics of the District can be regarded as satisfactory. The Sanitary Circumstances have not altered during the past year. At the time of writing this review, housing is the main problem confronting the Council. Many houses exist in this District which are only fit for condemnation, the slowness in erecting new houses is the main factor holding up the re-housing programme.

I wish to thank your Sanitary Inspector for the unfailing assistance given to me on taking up my appointment and for his unfailing help during the course of my duties without which it would be impossible to carry out all the work involved.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) L. RICH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Area Office,
Castle Green,
LAUNCESTON.
August, 1949.

SECTION A.

Social Conditions of Area and Statistics.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

Area in acres.....	4,294
Population	5,170
No. of separate dwellings occupied in 1948	1,364
Rateable Value in 1948	£49,917.
Product of ld rate.....	£208.

Live Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	72	43	29
Illegitimate.	8	6	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of population.....	15.47.		

Stillbirths.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	1	1	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Deaths of infants under 1 year.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	4	1	3
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Infant mortality rate.....	50.		

Legitimate 50.
Illegitimate -.

Deaths of all causes.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
	82	30	52
Death rate per 1,000 of the population.....	15.86.		

The registered causes of death were:-

	Causes of death.	Male.	Female.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers.	-	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet fever.	-	-	-
4.	Whooping cough.	-	1	1
5.	Diphtheria.	-	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis - respiratory.	-	3	3
7.	Tuberculosis - other forms.	-	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases.	-	1	1
9.	Influenza.	-	-	-
10.	Measles.	-	-	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis: Polio Encephalitis.	-	-	-
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	-	-	-
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus.	1	-	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	-	1	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	3	3	6
17.	Diabetes.	-	-	-
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	4	4	8
19.	Heart Disease.	9	15	24
20.	Other Diseases of Circulation.	1	1	2
21.	Bronchitis.	1	-	1
22.	Pneumonia	1	3	4
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases.	-	1	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	-	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	-	-	-
26.	Appendicitis.	1	-	1
27.	Other digestive disorders.	-	3	3
28.	Nephritis.	2	-	2
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.	-	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes.	-	-	-
31.	Premature Birth.	-	-	-
32.	Congenital Malformation: Birth Injury: Infantile Disorders.	1	1	2
33.	Suicide.	-	-	-
34.	Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-
35.	Other Violent Causes.	3	2	5
36.	All other causes.	3	11	14

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

a. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The National Health Service Act provides a Public Health Laboratory Service to cover Cornwall. This is a marked step forward, as previously the cost of sampling and swabbing had fallen heavily on Local Authorities where in rural areas a considerable amount of sampling was involved. Laboratories have now been established in Truro and Exeter and all swabs and samples are sent to one or other of these Laboratories, whichever is more convenient.

Bacteriological analyses of milk, water and icecream are undertaken free of charge.

b. HOSPITAL AND CLINIC FACILITIES.

The majority of hospital cases are referred to Plymouth and Exeter. Infectious Diseases cases requiring isolation in Hospital, are admitted to Swilley Hospital in Plymouth. Specialist Clinics are being established in Launceston to obviate the need for patients undertaking the long journey to Plymouth or Exeter. It is hoped in the near future to have every type of Clinic available in Launceston. The following Clinics are at present available:-

- Ear, Nose and Throat.
- Chest.
- Medical.
- Cancer follow up.
- Dermatological.
- Ante-natal.
- Minor ailments.
- Orthopaedic.
- Infant Welfare.

c. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Council, in accordance with the provision of the National Health Service Act, 1948, are now responsible for the administration of the Ambulance Service.

Agreement has been reached with the St. John Ambulance Service, and a scheme evolved whereby the County Council is responsible for a proportion of the Ambulance Service and the St. John for the remainder. The County Council has acquired a certain number of ambulances formerly the property of the St. John and has provided fulltime drivers. The County Ambulances and their drivers are operating the Service during the hours of 7.0 a.m. to 7.0 p.m. in their Main Centres. Apart from the initial difficulty inherent in any new scheme, the Service is working well, having regard to the very much increased number of calls on it since the inception of the new Act.

d. HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

Where a District is situated far from the main Hospital Centres, it is essential to provide a Hospital Car Service to enable patients to attend Hospital for consultation and treatment. Although a Hospital Car Service existed before the advent of the National Health Service Act, this Service has increased considerably. A panel of voluntary car drivers has been established to carry out this Service, and they are paid a mileage rate by the County Council.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Ministry of Health caused an enquiry to be held on Tuesday, 28th September, 1948 into the Schemes for sewerage disposal at Poughill and Stratton.

The work proposed at Stratton is the re-laying of the existing Sewerage System. At the Enquiry, it was brought out that the existing Disposal Works at Stratton are inadequate and a Scheme is being prepared to provide a suitable Sewerage Works for this Area.

The Parish of Poughill, with the exception of privately owned Septic Tanks, is without any Sewerage Disposal, and the Scheme proposed is at present being held up pending the decision of the Planning Authorities.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council's water undertaking which supplies most of the Urban Area and several parishes in the adjoining Rural District, is managed by the Engineer of the Council.

Samples are, however, taken by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted for bacteriological examination. Results of the samples taken during 1948 are shown below:-

<u>Date of sample.</u>	<u>Where taken.</u>	<u>Pathologists report.</u>
21. 1. 48.	Tap at 4, Flexbury Park Road.	Satisfactory.
17. 3. 48.	Tap at the Castle.	"
28. 6. 48.	Tap at Bude Dairies Depot.	"
15. 8. 48.	Tap at the Castle.	"
2. 11. 48.	Tap at 4, Flexbury Park Road.	Unsatisfactory - additional chlorina- tion required (in- creased to 3 parts per million).
12.11.48.	Tank at old filters.	Satisfactory.
"	Tank at new filters.	"
"	4 Flexbury Park Road.	"
"	J. Hoard's Shop.	"
17.11.48.	Merry Hill, Poughill.	"
30.11.48.	Tank at old filters.	"
"	Tank at new filters.	"
"	Merry Hill, Poughill	"

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Sanitary Inspection of District.	No. in District	No. of visits 1948.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses.	4	22	3	3
Dairies.	6	30	7	7
Food preparing places which are subject to inspection	43	127	-	-
Factories	42	109	19	19

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Overcrowding.	7	Refuse receptacles	12
Keeping of animals	4	Camping sites.	3
Sanitary accommodation		Yard paving.	-
(a) insufficient	5	Dampness	25
(b) defective	11	Roofs and rain water pipes	32
Drainage		Floors	16
(a) reconstructed.	8	Walls and ceilings.	27
(b) repaired.	3	Windows and ventilation.	7
(c) cleansed.	5	Water supplies	17
Cesspools			
(a) abolished	2	Total number of visits of all	
(b) repaired.	5	kinds by the Inspector during	
Offensive accumulations.	3	the year :-	1,824

SECTION D.

HOUSING SURVEY.

The housing programme began to show results in 1948 and by the end of the year, thirty new Council Houses were completed and occupied.

Repairs to existing houses are now being effected at a more satisfactory rate, due principally to the raising of the limit for unlicensed work to £100 per house.

The older parts of the District will require considerable attention if the houses are to remain habitable as there is no doubt that the younger housewives will not tolerate the living conditions of these houses, especially by contrast with the many labour saving fitments of the new Council Houses. It is estimated that the number of houses immediately needed is 150. This number includes the need of new houses for those families now living in houses ripe for condemnation.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLIES AND CONTROL.

In the Urban District the largest supply is from the Bude Dairies pasteurisation plant. The premises and plant were frequently inspected during the year and the following samples taken for bacteriological and phosphatase examination :-

Satisfactory

24

Unsatisfactory

1

12 samples of T.T. and "undesigned" milk were also sent to Truro for examination and in each case were satisfactory.

ICECREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC) REGULATIONS 1947

Fortnightly samples of icecream were taken from the shops selling this line and much useful education in food hygiene was accomplished. In addition, a meeting of icecream traders was held to explain the provisions of the Regulations.

There is considerable scope for improvement in the manufacture and handling of this foodstuff and it is hoped that prepacking will be more insisted on in the future. The results from the large manufacturers were uniformly satisfactory.

UN SOUND FOOD

The amount of food condemned as unfit was seven cwts. This is a tribute to the quality of food now sold particularly tinned goods where the amount unfit is an infinitesimal part of the quantity sold.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses in the District, but the Meat Depot from which meat is allocated to the local butchers was frequently inspected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The above Act is administered by the Cornwall County Council and the undermentioned figures have been kindly supplied by the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector :-

Name of article.	No. of samples taken.	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk.	12	12	Nil
Butter	1	1	"
Malt Vinegar	1	1	"
Coffee	1	1	"
Barley flour	1	1	"
Olive oil	1	1	"
	17	17	Nil

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

A complete survey was made of business and private premises to ascertain the extent of infestation.

Where infestations occurred they were dealt with by the methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Council's properties, refuse dumps and sewage works received routine quarterly treatments and the sewerage systems of the town receive an annual test baiting and treatment if found to be necessary.

No. of survey visits made by Rodent Operator.	650
No. of treatments.	237
No. of revisits.	392

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and
Other Diseases.

Very few Infectious Diseases are notified in this District. Undoubtedly the District is healthy and serious epidemic disease does not occur. Nevertheless, it is felt that numbers of Infectious Diseases do occur which are not notified. The figures for the second half of the year are available and only three cases of Infectious Disease were notified. For the information of the Council, the following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases in neighbouring Districts during the period 1.7.48 to 31.12. 48:-

	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever.	Acute Primary Pneumonia.	Malaria	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pleurisy	Erysipelas.	Cerebral spinal meningitis.	Total
Launceston Borough.	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Launceston Rural District.	6	47	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	56
Bude-Stratton Urban District.	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Stratton Rural District.	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Camelford Rural District.	7	84	2	3	-	3	1	1	-	1	102
TOTAL.	13	151	8	5	-	3	1	1	2	1	185

TUBERCULOSIS.

All new cases of Tuberculosis, either respiratory or non-respiratory are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, where considered necessary, is arranged by the County T.B. Officer in the various Sanatoria at his disposal. The living conditions etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these Sanatoria are investigated by this Authority. If necessary, additional nourishment is provided in order to maintain their resistance to the disease. During the year, there were no new cases of Tuberculosis in the District.

